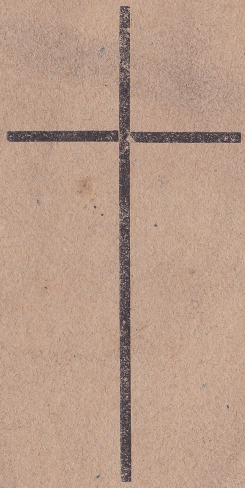
ST. STEPHEN'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MILNROW

The Messenger



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*

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*

MARCH
1972

Dear Friends,

Confidence is one of the essentials of our modern day living. At the time of writing, I am expecting the power to go off at any moment. Confidence in the economy is at a very low ebb. Many of the effects of the miners' strike have still to be felt. Two things are clear: the cost of living is going to continue to increase, and the blow which the country received in the Londonderry shootings has been followed by another hard punch.

In our area of the country, confidence in industry is essential to our well-being. Many of us or those known to us, are aware of what this lack of confidence means. The uneasiness regarding the future with widespread reduncancies is one of the facts of living these days. If people in our churches are facing these things, then we must go through it with them. That's what Christianity is about - suffering along with people - sharing each other's problems. Prayer is about that as well: recognising God in our predicament, and in our neighbours' worries.

When we think of confidence and the church, we realise quickly that we are not going through the most hopeful of eras. Confidence depends on two things: the strength of our faith and how we regard each other. An outsider (and many insider) can see at a glance that the old forms are going, as well as the authority vested in those traditions. But if confidence ever rested on these things, it was surely superficial. The faith remains the same age to age. How we interpret and live the faith may change. Confidence in what we are doing in the name of Christ is essential. That means confidence in God and confidence in each other.

It's often little things which destroy that confidence. We can't emphasise enough that the churches depend upon idividuals pulling their weight and pulling together. That means that if we agree to take on a place of responsibility within the life

of the local church, or the wider councils of the church, we should do the job sincerely and diligently. We shouldn't expect other people to do the thinking and worrying for us. This only has to happen in a few instances and confidence is lost. Along with the confidence goes other people's hard work and sacrifice.

All this is linked with the Easter message. Christ came to conquer apathy and disillusionment and to give people eternal hope and confidence. His ministry is still our ministry. This Easter must restore and reaffirm that hope. Lent gives us time to analyse our personal attitudes and faith, so that Easter can be doubly meaningful. That sounds like a worthwhile resolution for March.

Yours sincerely,

Glyn Jenkins

++

IN MEMORIAM

JANE SUTCLIFFE, of 8 Victoria Street, Littleborough, passed away on Sunday February 6th at home, aged 81. The funeral took place on Wednesday 9th February, with a service at the church, prior to cremation at Rochdale. Mrs. Sutcliffe was a member of Littleborough Congregational Church and supported the work over many years. Our sympathy is extended to Mr. Sutcliffe and all the relatives.

++

HOLY BAPTISM

DIANNE REYNOLDS, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. M Reynolds of 142 Royds Street, Rochdale, baptised at Littleborough on Sunday 13th February, our minister officiating.

HOLY MATRIMONY

At St. Stephen's on Saturday, 12th February:

Daniel Roche of Hounslow, to Beverley Ann Byne of 2 Chapelgate, Milnrow, our minister officiating.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mrs. Audrey Baines on being received into church membership at St. Stephen's

To Mr. & Mrs. G. Butterworth, of 29 Chichester Close, Smithy Bridge, on the birth of a son Philip, on 23rd January.

To Mr. & Mrs. N. Jones of Rochdale (formerly of Cambrian Drive, Milnrow) on the birth of a daughter Rachel Clare, on 24th January.

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS AT EASTER

March 5th: Inner blindness
St. John 9: 1- 7, 39 -41

12th: (Mothering Sunday) Family inheritance
1 Tim. 1: 1- 7. 2: 1 -2

19th: (Passion Sunday) Accepting Suffering
Isaiah 53.

26th: (Palm Sunday) Peaceful attack
Luke 19: 29 -40

April 2nd: (Easter Day) Risen indeed
Luke 24: 1 -16, 28 -35.

A PRAYER FROM A THANKFUL HEART

Thank you God for precious sleep,
and healing nature.
For Christian friends who help simply
because they want to.
Thank you God for love: Amen.

Published by a church member who has recently

PROUD PROMOTIONS FOR PERSISTANT PILOTS

Congratulations to the following pilots who were promoted from Ordinary Seaman to the rank of Acting Able Seaman at a special service conducted by the Revd. G. Jenkins at a recent Pilot Evening:-

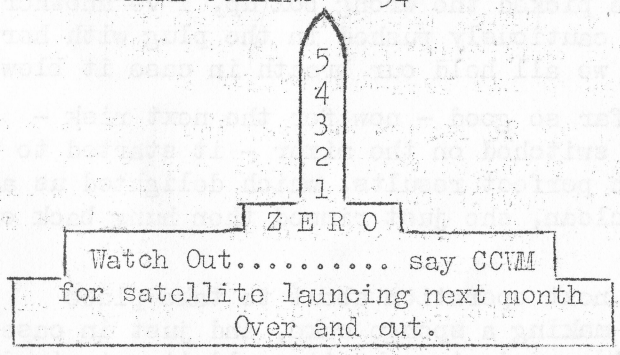
FIONA COLLINS JUDITH HERCZEGH LYNN BREWIN
KAREN MELLOR SUSAN MELLOR VALERIE FURSEY
STEPHEN COLLINS

To gain the badge the pilots had to complete various church and service assignments and also demonstrate their skills and talents such as swimming, modelling, cooking etc.

MILNROW STARS BESIEGED BY AUTOGRAPHHUNTERS.....

One of the themes of this year's Pilot Voyage is developing ones 'Talent for Learning' and one of the tasks set in learning about our church was for each Pilot to obtain the autograph of every person from 2 to 90 who attended morning church during the month. Double, treble and quadruple bonus points were awarded for certain church officers. The leading Pilots were:-

STEPHEN COLLINS	101	Autographs
KAREN MELLOR	93	"
VALERIE FURSEY	56	"
JOANNE COLLINS	54	"



THE FOOD MIXER - 'MIX UP'
or
SUSIE'S FIRST DEMONSTRATION

The coffee and biscuits consumed long ago,
We chatted and patiently waited, then lo!
In burst Susie - whose so sorry she's late,
She'd been lost in the village - it was then well
passed eight.

She unpacked the dishes, etc., she'd brought;
Produced an extension and just as we thought
The plug wouldn't fit in our socket at all
And Susie couldn't change it, so out went the call

"Could any lady change over a plug?"
A hand shot up, Audrey Baines said she could.
While Audrey got busy, she described just a few
Of the fantastic things that the mixer could do.

To remember them all, she did her best,
But her memory failed and she read out the rest.
Full of apologies she said feeling hot,
"If my boss saw me now, I'd be fired on the spot!"

Audrey had finished, and after a pause,
The demo began to a round of applause.
She put her ingredients into a jug,
Then picked up the mixer - alas without plug.

Poor Susie went red, then cried out "Oh dear!
I've picked the wrong box up, I've another one here."
She cautiously pushed in the plug with her foot,
And we all held our breath in case it blew up.

So far so good - now for the next risk -
She switched on the mixer - it started to whisk
With perfect results, which delighted us all.
To clean, she just rinsed then hung back on the
wall.

The next operation about to take place
Was making a sponge cake, and just in case
You're wondering why it couldn't get mixed;
The ingredients were there, but the attachment
wasn't fitted

Sue put it on with no sign of a flap,
As it mixed we laughed with her (and gave her a clap).
The demo went well with a few minor hitches
Whilst Sue's sense of humour had us in stitches.

She'd just started training - it was her third day,
But we got the message in her winning way.
It came to a close with a tremendous ovation
For this, which was Susie's first demonstration.

.....Report of Coffee evening and Food Mixer Demonstration organised by the Womens Guild on Tuesday, 8th February, at Milnrow.

*

Our minister was the guest speaker at the February Guild meeting. He showed an interesting film entitled "Followers of the Way," to the 14 members who attended.

At the next Guild meeting on March 7th, Mrs. A. Henderson of Newhey will be the speaker.

****

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL SUPER SALESMEN TO COME FORTH

.....Please have a word with Mr. Alec Rae or Mr. B. Lucas if you are willing to sell coupons for the Michaelmas Market in November.

Selling starts in earnest during the second week in April.

****

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop originally planned at St. Stephen's for April, will now be held on Thursday & Friday the 11th & 12th MAY. Please keep this event in mind when Spring Cleaning!

More details in next month's Messenger.

****

FASHION SHOW (by Harwoods of Shaw)
on Tuesday 14th March at 7.30 pm. Tickets 15p.

A WORKER PRAYS

Me...and my Brothers....we'll stick together.

We are brothers -- more than that in fact: starved together, locked out together, on strike together .....and there's more redundancy each year. between automation and productivity deals.....
we'll stick together.

If we could just get one decent scheme for basic wage for everyone, instead of haggle, haggle all the time, but some clever dick always has to jump the queue, or some union boss or company man wants to argue the toss.....
we'll stick together.

One thing though, my sons won't work shifts. They'll never have to choose between being slaves or scabs. Jobs more like they have in the glass walled general office. Soft jobs...well, not soft jobs but clean jobs and interesting jobs.

I'll stick this to see they get a start.....
we'll stick together.

*

"Pilate addressed them again, in his desire to release Jesus, but they shouted back, 'Crucify him, Crucify him!' For the third time he spoke to them: 'Why, what wrong has he done?....' "

(Luke 23: 21 NEB)

*

A PRAYER

Lord, when I've stretched up for the highest and couldn't reach it: when I've reached out for the best and couldn't grasp it.....I come back to you. Forgive me Lord, but I had to try for the highest and the best, before I found out it was you that I was seeking.....and you found me first.

..... BUT ONLY

A MANAGER PRAYS

Lord, I could only see that man for a minute, and it was not long enough to break down what was between us.....Forgive me.

God, I pray for all the many people I simply bruch against in passing, and so often forget to treat with care, in the hurry of work. I pray that they may see that the mask of mechanical efficiency, and order books, and rows of figures, is one they hold up between us, and that I could not do this work except for the human values it serves.

Thank you for friends who understand what my work means, and strengthen me; and for those who couldn't begin to understand, but still are friends.

Save me from thinking I am indispensable, or that my failures fracture the world, or that any judgement is final except yours.

So help me God. Amen.

*

I step into my heart and there I meet
A god-almighty devil singing small,
Who would like to shout and whistle in the street
And squelsh the passers flat against the wall;
If the whole world was a cake he had the power to take,
He would take it, ask for more, and eat it all.

And I meet a sort of simpleton beside,
The kind that life is always giving beans;
With thirty bob a week to keep a bride
He fell in love and married in his teens;
At thirty bob he stuck; but he knows it isn't luck,
He knows the seas are deeper than tureens.

(John Davidson)

280 YEARS AFTER....HAVE WE REALLY CHANGED?

From a writing found in Old Saint Paul's Church
Baltimore, Dated 1692.

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence.
As far as possible without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly, and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant, they too have their story.
Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.
If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your career, however humble; it is a real possession in a changing world.
Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery.
But let not this blind you to what virtue there is; for many persons strive for high ideals and everywhere life is full of heroism.
Be yourself .....you are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars, you have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.
Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul.
With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.
Be careful. Strive to be happy.

****

(Submitted to the Messenger by Mrs. Roberts of 37 Moorland Avenue, Milnrow.)

EASTER 1972 IN BOTH CHURCHES

Special events have been arranged for Easter and Lent and we hope for a good response from our people.

Thursdays March 9, 16th, 23rd, April 13th 20th & 27th. lectures at Rochdale College given by members of staff of the Congregational College, Manchester.
Fees: 60p (for 6 lectures); 12p (single lecture)
7.30 p.m. - 9.00

AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Sunday March 26th: 6 pm. 'The Crucifixion'
(In music and readings)
Choir practices Mondays March 13, 20, at 8 pm.
Littleborough choir invited to share.

Maundy Thursday communion March 30th conducted by the Revd. K. Rammage of Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Good Friday and Easter services as in Diary.

AT LITTLEBOROUGH

Maundy Thursday Ecumenical service in the Parish Church 8 p.m. Holy Communion and Sermon. The ministers of Littleborough churches will be taking part.

Good Friday morning service at Littleborough Methodist Church, Victoria Street, at 11.00 am.

A GOOD FRIDAY PILGRIMAGE

Arranged by the Pilot Companies of out two churches. A cross will be carried to a certain prominant area on Blackstone Edge starting at 3.15 p.m. on Good Friday afternoon. The starting point will be the car park at the bottom of the Roman Road. Everyone is welcome. Selected crossbearers will start from Littleborough centre at approx. 2.30 p.m. Cars will be arranged at the Milnrow end for those wishing to go - also a possible ramble over the moors back to Milnrow.
As the cross is taken up the Edge, there will be special stages when in readings, prayers etc., we will live out the last journey of Christ.

NEW CARETAKER APPOINTED

The Deacons have announced that Mr. and Mrs. J.Holt of 87 Todmorden Road are to be the new caretakers. We wish them well in starting on this most important job in our church life.

This is also the appropriate time to express our gratitude to Mrs. Tomlinson and the other people who have helped in the last month. A letter has been sent on behalf of the Church Meeting thanking Mr. and Mrs. Beattie for their long and dedicated service in this capacity.

**

THANKS FROM THE LITTLE ONES

The creche wish to extend their thanks to Mrs. J. Grindrod, Miss Karen Schofield and the children of the Primary Department for the lovely toys and books they have given to the children of the creche.

**

WHITSUNDAY

There will be no procession of witness by the churches of Littleborough this year on Whit Sunday. This is the decision jointly taken by the churches concerned, but they have decided instead to hold a United Service in our church at 10.30 am. on that day.

**

ENLIGHTENED STATEMENT

A leading official of one of our churches (no names, no packdrill) making a church announcement during the miners' strke said,

"In the event of a power cut we will have to look at the matter in a differenct light."

.....Yuch, yuch, yuch....."Out of the mouths of Deacons and.....

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

March			
Wed.	1st	7.30 pm.	Bury & Rochdale Dist. Womens Guild Rally at Bury.
Sun.	5th	11.00 am.	Revd. G. Jenkins
		6.00 pm.	Communion
Mon.	6th	6.30 pm.	Pilots and following Mondays
		7.45 pm.	Lay Preachers MMtg. at Heywood.
Tues.	7th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild: Mrs. A. Henderson
Wed.	8th	7.30 pm.	Deacons Meeting.
Thurs.	9th	7.30 pm.	Lecture at Rochdale College.
Sun.	12th	11.00 am.	Mr. W. Beswick
		6.00 pm.	Rev. W. Holloway (District exchange of pulpits)
Mon.	13th	8.00 pm.	Choir Practice
Tues.	14th	7.30 pm.	Fashion Show
Wed.	15th	7.30 pm.	Men's 21 Club
Thur.	16th	7.30 pm.	Rochdale College Lecture
Fri.	17th	8.00 pm.	Choir Practice
Sun.	19th	11.00 am.	Revd. G. Jenkins
		6.00 pm.	"
Mon.	20th	8.00 pm.	Choir preactice
Thur.	23rd	7.30 pm.	Rochdale College Lecture
Sun.	26th	11.00 am.	Lay Preacher
		6.00 pm.	"The Crucifixion"
Tues.	28th	8.00 pm.	Church Meeting
Thur.	30th	7.30 pm.	Maundy Thursday Communion led by the Revd. Keith Rammage
Fri.	31st	9.30 am.	Good Friday Service
		3.15 pm.	Good Friday Pilgrimage

(See page 11)

Sun.	2nd	11.00 am.	Revd. G. Jenkins
			No EVENING WORSHIP
Tues.	4th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild: Musical Evening

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

March 5th	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
12th	Miss M. Wood	
19th	Mrs. A. Tither	Mrs. J. Harrison
26th	Miss I. Tither	Mrs. B. Shacleton
		Mrs. A. Baines
April 2nd	Mrs. L. Cross,	Mr. K. Hey, Mrs. E. King

FAMILY WORSHIP DOOR STEWARDS

March 5th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
12th	Mr. D. Fursey	Miss M. Wood
19th	Counc. I. Royle	Counc. J. Harrison
26th	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
Apl. 2nd	Mrs. F. Whitworth	Mrs. J. Duffly

DEACONS ROTA

EVENING DOOR STEWARDS		PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
March 5th	Mrs. M. Settle Mr. H. Whitehead	Mrs. E. Starkie
12th	Mr. R. Gillon Mr. K. Hey	Mr. J. Emmott
19th	Mrs. E. Gillon Mr. B. Clough	Mr. D. Logan
26th	Mr. G. Whitworth Mr. J. Emmott	Mrs. C. Hey
April 2nd	NO EVENING SERVICE	

COMMUNION ROTA

March 5th	Mr. A. Roberts	Mr. J. Emmott
30th	(Maundy Thursday)	
	Mrs. A. Scaddon	Mr. B. Clough
April 9th	Mr. J. Emmott	Mr. H. Whitehead

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

March 5th	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. Collins
12th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. D. Hey
19th	Mrs. H. Whitehead	Mrs. Greenhalgh
26th	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. J. Calow
April 2nd	Mrs. A. Whitworth	Mrs. N. Settle
9th	Mrs. D. Howarth	Mrs. M. Mellor

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

SIDESMEN

March 5th	Mr. E. Holt	Mr. Beattie	
12th	Mr. Ingham	Mr. Booth	A.M,
	Mr. Simpson	Mr. H. Hill	P.M.
19th	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. Nairn	
26th	Mr. Ingham	Mr. E. Holt	
Apl. 2nd	Mr. H. Hill	Mr. Booth	
9th	Mr. Nairn	Mr. J. Hill	

DEACONS COMMUNION ROTA

March 12th	Mr. Nairn	Mr. Beattie	6.0 pm.
Apl. 23rd	Mr. Simpson	Mr. Griffiths	10.30 am.

CRECHE ROTA

Mrs. J. Grindrod will take the creche as a permanent appointment, along with Mrs. A. Walls from Sunday 20th February.
Thanks to all those who have helped in the past.

COFFEE ROTA

March 5th	V. Crossley	A. Tomlinson
12th	B. Leach	D. Mallinson
19th	K. Hill	J. Law
26th	J. Simpson	E. Booth
April 2nd	B Griffiths	A. Merrick

****

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

March 5th	"Inner Blindness" John 9: 1- 7, 39-41	Mrs. Lightfoot
12th	(Mother's Day) "Family Inheritance" 1 Timothy 1: 1 -7 " 2: 1 -2	Mrs. C. Hill
19th	(Passion Sunday) "Accepting Suffering" Isaiah 53	Mr. Simpson
26th	(Palm Sunday) "Peaceful Attack" Luke 19: 29 - 40	Carl Mallinson
April 2nd	(Easter) "Risen Indeed" Luke 24: 1-16, 28-35	Mrs. K. Hill
9th	"The Work goes on" Matthew 28: 16 -20	Lethbridge Team

March

Sun. 5th	10.30 am.	Mr. A. Roberts
Tues. 7th	7.30 pm.	Womens Guild A.G.M.
	8.00 pm.	Busy Bees (At Home)
Thurs.9th	6.30 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 12th	10.30 am.	Miss Burgess (Mother's Day)
	6.00 pm.	Revd. G. Jenkins (Communion)
Thurs.16th	6.30 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 19th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Mon. 20th	7.45 pm.	Church Meeting
Thur.23rd	6.30 pm.	Pilots
	8.00 pm.	Mens Fellowship: (Mr. W. Griffiths -Potholing)
Sun. 26th	10.30 am.	Revd. G. Jenkins
Thur.30th	8.00 pm.	United Holy Communion Service (Parish Church)
Fri. 31st	10.45 am.	United Service at Victoria St. Methodist Church: Dr. Letch & Rev. G. Jenkins
	2.30 pm.	Procession of Witness from Littleborough Centre - carrying cross.

April

Sun. 2nd	10.30 am.	Easter Day
Thur. 6th	6.30 pm.	Pilots
Sun. 9th	10.30 am.	Revd. G. Jenkins (no evening serv.
Tue. 11th	7.30 pm.	Deacons Meeting

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

March 5th	Mrs. Jackson
12th	Mrs. Hancock
19th	Mrs. Crossley & Mrs. Williams
26th	Mrs. Wade
April 2nd	Mrs. Cockroft
9th	Mrs. Priestley

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